



DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

FINANCIAL AID DEVELOPMENTS

By Kim Slote, policy analyst

FEDERAL PELL GRANTS

An [Electronic Announcement](#) was published by the USDE March 2, 2020: First Pell Grant Administrative Cost Allowance Payments for 2019-2020 Award Year. The announcement explains which students a school is eligible to receive ACA payments for and indicates the funds may only be used to defray the costs of administering the Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, Federal Work-Study and Federal Perkins Loan programs. The USDE began processing ACA payments for all schools on Feb. 27, 2020 and includes those records processed by the COD System beginning July 1, 2019. Funds for ACA payments were deposited into school bank accounts. Contact information is provided for those schools that need assistance regarding their ACA payments.

FORMS

A [Federal Register Notice](#) was issued by the USDE March 4, 2020: Comment Request; Borrower Defense to Loan Repayment Universal Form. The USDE is proposing a new information collection. Information collected will be from borrowers who believe they qualify for a borrower defense to repayment discharge. Comments must be submitted on or before May 4, 2020.

TECHNICAL

Several announcements related to technical changes were published by the USDE in the month of March. The updates listed are linked with the corresponding electronic announcement with the date of publication.

- [Operational Implementation Guidance – Federal Student Aid’s Implementation of 2020-2021 Federal Pell Grant Payment and Disbursement schedules – March 4, 2020](#)
- [Quarterly SAIG Message Class File Update – March 6, 2020](#)
- [CPS Reprocessing on March 10, 2020 for 2019-2020 Application and Correction Records with Blank DHS Match Results – March 10, 2020](#)
- [Implementation of 2020 CIP Codes in Federal Student Aid Systems – March 18, 2020](#)
- [2020-2021 COD Technical Reference \(March 2020 Update\) – March 31, 2020](#)

CAMPUS BASED PROGRAMS

On March 16, 2020, the USDE published an [Electronic Announcement](#): 2020-2021 Federal Work-Study Program Community Service Waiver Requests. Schools are required to expend at least seven percent of



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their total FWS federal allocation to compensate students employed in community service activities. If a school is unable to meet certain expenditure requirements of the FWS Program, they can request a waiver from the USDE. This announcement gives information on what those requirements are for the FWS Program and how to request a waiver. The waiver request must be submitted before midnight Eastern Time April 20, 2020. Any waiver requests received after this date will not be considered.

An [Electronic Announcement](#) was published by the USDE March 27, 2020: 2020-2021 Final Funding Authorizations for the Campus-Based Programs. The final 2020-2021 Campus-Based programs funding worksheets and the 2020-2021 Statement of Account for each of the Campus-Based programs were posted to the Common Origination and Disbursement Website. Important information related to the final funding authorizations is provided in the electronic announcement. Congress is currently considering potential supplemental appropriations action in response to the COVID-19 national emergency that could affect funding levels.

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

The USDE published a few electronic announcements in March related to COVID-

19 disruption. The linked announcements are listed with the dates of publication.

- [Guidance for interruptions of study related to Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) \(Updated March 20, 2020\) – March 5, 2020](#)
- [Issuance of Dear CPA Letter CPA-20-01, Site Visit Exemption During COVID-19 Outbreak – March 11, 2020](#)
- [Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement – Preliminary Implementation in Late April 2020, Borrower Completion Requirement Delayed until 2021 – March 27, 2020](#)